



Figure 6-5. The digital elevation model (left) used to derive the slope-steepness layer (right) for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

6.2.6 Mean-annual precipitation

Basinwide data on precipitation characteristics was not readily available, as this study was to use data based on a simulation model being developed concurrently by others. To overcome this obstacle, mean-annual precipitation was screen-digitized from an isopluvial paper map created by Sierra Hydrotech (Sierra Hydrotech, 1986). A point- vector layer was created representing the isopluvial lines (Figure 6-6). Precipitation lines vary from 17 to 80 inches per year in intervals of 3, 5 and 10 inches per year. After all points of an isopluvial line were digitized, the corresponding precipitation value was assigned (Table 6-7). Then, the precipitation layer was completed and a raster representing precipitation was created after conversion of the data to millimeters (Figure 6-6).